

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment  
August 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), David Davis (DD), Geoff Sanders (GS), Beri Kravitz (BK), Tolulope Odunlami (TO), and Sura Yakowitz (SY).

Absent: Kris Dighe (KD).

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW); Seth Adams, Jacqueline Erickson and Jon Landenburger – Rockville residents and prospective Commissioners.

**1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm in the Blue Crab Room at Rockville City Hall.

DD makes a motion to enter closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss Commission vacancies; BK seconds the motion. Motion carries with unanimous vote.

As not all Commissioners had arrived to the meeting, FK delayed the introduction of the potential applicant guests at the meeting until a little later in the agenda.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

SY makes a motion to approve the July 10, 2007 meeting minutes; DD seconds. Minutes passed into record by unanimous vote.

**3. FY07 Accomplishments / FY08 Goals**

The City Clerk has requested that all Boards and Commissions submit their list of Accomplishments from Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07 runs from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007) and their list of Goals for FY08. FK has requested that working groups respond to her by August 28<sup>th</sup> with accomplishments and goals so that she can start compiling those lists. Review old goals from last year, and redefine if necessary.

NW will forward the recent *Rockville Reports* article that lists [many environmental activities](#) over the past year that the Commission played a role in developing.

SY will coordinate with KD for the water group, and will also contact past-Commissioner Doug Beard to see if he had summarized the group's findings on their review of the Cabin John Creek Watershed Study.

**4. Welcome to Commissioner Applicants**

Jon Landenburger, Seth Adams and Jacqueline Erickson introduced themselves to the Commission. The Commissioners introduced themselves, and FK described the EC process, the working groups, and the general time commitment of being on the Commission.

**5. Working Group Updates**

Water Working Group

SY said that the last Water Group meeting was a brainstorming session with the Community Outreach group, and it was incredibly successful. The process involved first developing the overarching theme of the working group – to protect watershed in Rockville – then take this theme and apply it at different scales to come up with a tri-fold educational exhibit.

FK said that the exhibit would look at actions at the Citywide, Neighborhood and Individual level. An example from the water group would be to show Citywide SWM / watershed project, at a Neighborhood level people could participate in Adopt-A-Stream and water quality monitoring, and at the Individual level people could disconnect their downspouts, put in a rain barrel or rain garden,

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and use no / low-dose herbicide/pesticide/fertilizer application on their lawns. Case studies could then be shown for each of these examples.

This Citywide/Neighborhood/Individual concept will be used with the Energy / High Performance Buildings Group to develop their public outreach materials as well.

SY said that the Water Group had gotten fairly far along in planning their exhibit, including picking images for each of the sections of the exhibit.

The Water Group brochure will be finalized and released in September, corresponding with a new City employee start date focusing on Water Resources (more on this new hire in Staff Updates).

High Performance Buildings Group

The next meeting of the HPB / Energy group will be Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> in City Hall at 7:30pm. The group will meet with the Community Outreach group and go through the exhibit visioning / planning process that the Water Group just completed.

GS mentioned that the group was planning on releasing a recommendation that the City switch over to LED traffic signals –after checking on this, NW reported that the City had already done so and that 100% of City-owned traffic signals were now LED.

The next item for the group is their energy tips – they'd like to release their "Energy Audits" tip next month. It may be a little large for [Rockville Reports](#) right now. NW said that we can give the whole thing to RR and they can pare it down to whatever size they have available. Also, we can put the entire thing online, and direct people to the website for more information.

There were questions about what the City could put online in terms of resources for people to have an energy audit done – the City cannot endorse particular companies, but we can recommend using [EPA Energy Star](#) certified companies, things like that. EPA may keep a list of contractors that we could link to. FK mentioned that there are also online audits that you can do yourself. TO said he had been using these online audits recently and would send out more information to the group. SY mentioned that Silvio Baruzzi (working group member) had collected a lot of information about this as well.

BK mentioned that she had contacted Lerner Enterprises about touring the Lerner/Tower Companies green buildings in Rockville.

GS also mentioned that the Twinbrook Civic Association is concerned about the [Twinbrook Station](#) development, and our recent meeting with JBG didn't sufficiently address their concerns. FK asked whether the HPB group was looking in to the LEED-ND standards that JBG was using to guide the Twinbrook Station development. NW will ask Planning about the phasing of this project, and determine what phase(s) they have approved, and what the schedule for upcoming phases will be.

The Community Outreach Group

Has been meeting with other working groups and will be developing exhibit materials. Will want to coordinate with NW, City Graphics Dept and possibly the new Communication Officer (Tony Ruffin) to come up with cohesive message.

**6. Staff Updates**

FK mentioned that she was able to assist the City in the final interview process for the new "Environmental Technician" position. FK and Mark Charles conducted the final interviews last week, and an offer is pending. The Env Tech will be the water resources coordinator for the City,

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taking on the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program duties, enforcement of the new Water Quality Protection Ordinance, and other water resources activities like Adopt-A-Stream, stream monitoring, and NPDES permit compliance. This person will be available to coordinate with the Commission (particularly the Water Working Group) on areas of mutual interest.

NW mentioned that at the August 6, 2007 Mayor & Council meeting, an [ordinance was introduced](#) that would create a Refuse & Recycling Commission. FK said that the Duties and Responsibilities laid out for the proposed Commission overlapped in several areas with the Environment Commission, yet the document did not reference coordination with the EC. FK raised the question of why this was being proposed as a new permanent Commission, instead of a task force.

TO thought this sounded more like the work of a task force. The group could come together to make recommendations on the refuse and recycling program, and then be disbanded afterwards. The Commission also questioned whether an appointed group should be reporting to the City on “technological, environmental and programmatic advances in the field of refuse collection and recycling services” – it seems that the City staff should be aware of advances, and the group could provide feedback on the direction Rockville residents wished the City to take. This group seems more like RORZOR than a full Commission.

The Commission voted unanimously to provide comment for the public record on this proposed Commission, and to include the recommendation that this group be constituted as a task force rather than commission, and that the charter language should include direction to liaison with the Environment Commission on issues relating to the environment, recycling, etc. FK will send out draft comments by August 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>; Commissioners are to review and comment back to FK by August 29<sup>th</sup>. FK will prepare the final version for submittal to the Mayor & Council by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

In other City news, NW mentioned that the annual volunteer appreciation event is to be held at the Glenview Mansion from 5:30 – 7:30pm on September 7<sup>th</sup>. All Commissioners, and members of working groups, are invited – you should be receiving invitations soon.

The Environmental Management Division will be bringing the “Sustainable Rockville” program to the Mayor & Council at their September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. NW will be sending out materials for this by the end of August so that Commissioners have time to read and commit. We will incorporate comments and the revised version can be endorsed at the Commission’s September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Adopt-A-Stream program has started attracting several participants. We will be creating a brochure for distribution to civic associations and at other community events to help spread the word. Also, the Environment Commission had mentioned adopting a stream segment – has there been a decision on which one to adopt?

Lastly, Mark Charles has been coordinating with the EPA on arranging for a time to have the award presented to the EC – he’s having problems getting a firm commitment from EPA, but is actively working towards it.

## **7. Commission Vacancies**

After discussion by the Commission, DD moves to recommend Seth Adams’ appointment to the Environment Commission by the Mayor & Council. SY seconds the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of recommendation.

Action on the second vacancy is being tabled until a later date.

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**8. Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.